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[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.5)*]

72/220. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 71/229 of 21 December 2016, as well as other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the international community committed to combating desertification, restoring degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and striving to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by 2030,

Acknowledging that action to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and achieve a land degradation-neutral world can deliver multiple benefits and that land degradation

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

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neutrality has the potential to act as an accelerator for achieving Sustainable Development Goals and as a catalyst for attracting sustainable development financing and climate finance to implement the Convention,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[2] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Welcoming also the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,[4] and acknowledging that all types of forests provide essential ecosystem services, such as timber, food, fuel, fodder, non-wood products and shelter, as well as soil and water conservation and clean air, and that all forests prevent land degradation and desertification and reduce the risk of floods, landslides and avalanches, droughts, sand and dust storms and other disasters,

Noting that combating desertification, land degradation and drought, including through sustainable land management, can contribute to easing forced migration flows influenced by a number of factors, including economic, social, security and environmental concerns, which can, in turn, reduce current and potential fighting over resources in degraded areas,

Encouraging countries to give due consideration to the dissemination, promotion and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security,[5]

Recognizing that drought resilience is an important element in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, as well as of target 15.3 on land degradation neutrality,[6]

Highlighting the important role of civil society in the implementation of the Convention and its 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,[7]

Recognizing that sand and dust storms can be exacerbated by desertification, land degradation and drought and that sustainable land management in the context of land degradation neutrality, including land management and sustainable water use, can contribute to effective responses to sand and dust storms,

Welcoming the fact that 114 States have subscribed to the voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting programme under the United Nations Convention

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[2] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[4] See resolution 71/285.

[5] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

[6] See resolution 70/1.

[7] ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1, decision 7/COP.13, annex.

to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recognizing the value of knowledge, education, science and new technology to sustainable development and good land management, including making use of, inter alia, the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, emphasizing the importance of science-based decision-making, and that science and technology to combat desertification, land degradation and drought should therefore be further promoted, and welcoming the organization of the technology fair at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of China for hosting the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Ordos, China, from 6 to 16 September 2017,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 71/229 on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[8]

2. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[9]

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the adoption of the Ordos Declaration at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention urging countries to step up efforts on all fronts to tackle desertification, land degradation and drought, which are seen as major environmental, economic and social challenges for global sustainable development;[10]

4. *Recognizes* the importance of applying new and innovative technologies, as well as sharing best practices, in combating desertification, land degradation and drought, and invites the Secretary-General to identify those technologies and best practices in his report on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Takes note*, as appropriate, of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its thirteenth session, to promote the positive role that measures taken to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1] can play in addressing desertification, land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that can cause migration, and invites all stakeholders to take note of this when addressing drivers of migration within the ongoing processes;

6. *Encourages* the public and private sectors to continue to invest in developing technologies, methods and tools to combat desertification, land degradation and drought in different regions, and to boost knowledge exchange, including of traditional knowledge with the consent of the knowledge holders, capacity-building and sharing of technologies on mutually agreed terms;

7. *Encourages* developed countries party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or

[8] A/72/152, sect. II, and A/72/152/Corr.1.

[9] ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1.

[10] Ibid., decision 27/COP.13, annex.

Desertification, Particularly in Africa, to actively support the efforts of developing countries party to the Convention in promoting sustainable land management practices and in seeking to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by providing substantial financial resources, facilitated access to appropriate technology and other forms of support, including through capacity-building measures;

8. *Welcomes* the adoption of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention,[7] including a new strategic objective on drought, and strongly encourages the parties to the Convention to apply and align with the Strategic Framework in their national policies, programmes, plans and processes relating to desertification, land degradation and drought, including in their national action programmes, as appropriate, and to implement the Strategic Framework, taking into account the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[11]

9. *Recognizes* that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to the effective implementation of the Convention, including its 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, and to the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[6] and calls upon parties to the Convention and partners to pursue the equal participation of women and men in planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels and to further promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in desertification, land degradation and drought-related policies and activities as a means to strengthen the effective and efficient implementation of action on the ground;

10. *Invites* multilateral and bilateral partners to support parties to the Convention in the implementation of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention;

11. *Encourages* parties to the Convention to continue to promote the prevention of desertification, land degradation and drought with an integrated landscape approach, including the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded land and sustainable land management;

12. *Calls upon* parties to the Convention to enhance and support the preparation of drought preparedness policies on, inter alia, early warning systems, vulnerability and risk assessment, as well as drought risk mitigation measures;

13. *Welcomes* target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world,[6] takes note with appreciation of the voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting programme under the Convention and the work of the secretariat of the Convention and partners to assist States in carrying out voluntary target setting activities, and in this respect invites States that have not yet subscribed to the programme to do so;

14. *Invites* more investment aimed at the operationalization of the voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting programme and the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund as an innovative funding scheme to finance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including for the achievement of a land degradation-neutral world;

15. *Recognizes* the benefits gained from cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information, forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, while also taking account of dust and sand storms, at the global, regional and subregional levels, and in this regard likewise

[11] Resolution 69/313, annex.

recognizes the need for further cooperation between parties to the Convention and relevant organizations in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems;

16. *Invites* donors to the Global Environment Facility to give due consideration to the concerns expressed with regard to the allocation of resources across the different focal areas, including land degradation, and encourages parties to the Convention to advocate a balanced allocation of funds during the seventh replenishment process under the Facility;

17. *Encourages* the United Nations system to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Convention on Biological Diversity,[12] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this respect notes the ongoing efforts to strengthen synergies among the secretariats of the aforementioned conventions;

18. *Reaffirms* the continuation of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Secretariat for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention no later than 31 December 2023, as decided by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session;

19. *Decides* to include, in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2018–2019, the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium, and requests the Secretary-General to make provisions for those sessions in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa", unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
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[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.